

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 DLOS-06 SAL-01 COME-00 EB-07
CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SAJ-01
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /100 W
----- 012305 /71

R 151525Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8316
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOSOUTH
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR
/USMISSION NATO 3328
USMISSION USUN
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 13305

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, PFOR, GR, TU
SUBJECT: AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: A) ATHENS 12966; B) ATHENS 12453

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS, THE NEW CHIEF OF THE
MFA TURKEY-CYPRUS DIVISION, DIMITRIS MACRIS, COMMENTED ON
SOME ASPECTS OF THE GREEK-TURKISH DIALOGUE ON THE AEGEAN.
MACRIS SAID THAT THE MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS BITSIOS
AND CAGLAYANGIL AFTER THE NATO MINISTERIAL HAD BEEN GENERALLY
POSITIVE. THE TWO DIPLOMATS HAD REVIEWED THE BERN
"PROCEDURES" AGREEMENT AND DISCUSSED FURTHER
THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEM AREAS IN THE AEGEAN AIR
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SPACE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF DISCUSSIONS, MACRIS SAID THAT THE MIXED COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WOULD GET TOGETHER AGAIN TOWARDS THE END OF JANUARY 1977 TO DETERMINE WHAT STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN NEXT. HE SAID THE GREEKS ENVISAGED EACH PANEL OF EXPERTS PRESENTING THEIR RESPECTIVE VIEWS ON SIMILAR CONTINENTAL SHELF CASES IN OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD IN ORDER TO EXAMINE PRECEDENTS AND PRINCIPLES (PARA 8 AND 9 OF THE BERN AGREEMENT) FOR POSSIBLE APPLICATION TO THE AEGEAN. THE GREEKS WERE ALREADY VERY BUSY EXAMINING THE RECORD, HE ADDED, AND HOPED THE TURKS WERE ALSO DOING THEIR HOMEWORK. HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED IF THE GREEK SIDE MIGHT BE PREPARED TO MAKE PROPOSALS AND, IF SO WHAT KIND, MACRIS DEMURRED BY SAYING THAT IT WAS STILL VERY EARLY FOR THE GREEK SIDE TO SURFACE ANY PROPOSALS.

3. REGARDING THE FIR TALKS, MACRIS INDICATED BOTH SIDES WERE FAIRLY CLOSE TOGETHER. HE COMMENTED THAT THERE NEW WERE BUT THREE POINTS UPON WHICH AGREEMENT WAS STILL NECESSARY. THE FIRST RELATED TO THE WIDTH OF THE (SECURITY) ZONE SURROUNDING THE FIR LINE SINCE THE NORTH-SOUTH EXTENT OF THE ZONE HAD BEEN AGREED. AS TO THE WIDTH, THE PROPOSAL NOW PENDING WAS THAT THE TURKISH LITTORAL SHOULD BE USED AS THE BASE LINE, WITH A SECURITY "ZONE" EXTENDING 30 NAUTICAL MILES TO THE WEST OF THIS LINE AND 20 NAUTICAL MILES TO THE EAST. THE ACTUAL ZONE WOULD BE DESCRIBED IN THE PUBLISHED AGREEMENT BY COORDINATES IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE TURKISH DESIRE TO AVOID MENTION OF THE PRESENT FIR LINE WHICH THEY WERE CONCERNED MIGHT BE INTERPRETED BY SOME AS A PERMANENT BOUNDARY.

4. THE SECOND PENDING ISSUE WAS TURKISH INSISTENCE ON NOTIFICATION OF EACH AND EVERY COMMERCIAL FLIGHT IN THE AEGEAN. THE GREEK SIDE WAS RELUCTANT TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST BECAUSE A REVIEW OF ACTIVITY DURING THE PAST SUMMER MONTHS REVEALED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ALMOST TWO THOUSAND FLIGHTS ON NON-MILITARY AIRCRAFT DAILY. THE TREND WAS TOWARDS INCREASING AIR TRAFFIC, MAKING THIS NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE PHYSICALLY TOO OVERWHELMING A REQUIREMENT WITH WHICH TO COMPLY. THE THIRD ITEM, WHICH MACRIS SAID WAS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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HIS OPINION A MINOR POINT, WAS THE NUMBER OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A "SORTIE" THAT HAD TO BE IDENTIFIED. INITIALLY, BOTH SIDES HAD BEEN FAR APART, BUT NOW THEY HAD CLOSED TO THE POINT THAT THEY WERE DISCUSSING LEVELS OF BETWEEN 25 (GREEK PREFERENCE) TO 20 (TURKISH PREFERENCE) AIRCRAFT PER SORTIE. ALTHOUGH NO DATE HAD BEEN FIXED, THE FIR TALKS WOULD CONTINUE IN ATHENS, PROBABLY THROUGH TURKISH AMBASSADOR TEZEL.

5. AS AN ASIDE, MACRIS MENTIONED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
SIGNING OF THE BERN "PROCEDURES" AGREEMENT HAD
ANGERED THE MILITARY IN ANKARA BECAUSE THE TURKISH
SIDE HAD THEREBY COMMITTED ITSELF TO REFRAIN FROM
ANY INITIATIVE OR ACT WHICH MIGHT HINDER THE NEGOTIATIONS
(PARA 6 OF THE AGREEMENT). THUS THE TURKS ADOPTED AN
INTRANSIGENT POSTURE AT THE PARIS AIR TALKS WHICH THEN
ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL WATERS, AEGEAN, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS13305
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760462-0255
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761238/aaaabgzf.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ATHENS 12966, 76 ATHENS 12453
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AEGEAN DISPUTE
TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, PFOR, GR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006